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City of  
**Indianapolis**  
Bart Peterson, Mayor



## ***City dedicates canal basin in memory of local WWII hero***

**INDIANAPOLIS** – Mayor Bart Peterson today joined with United States Navy personnel to dedicate the 10<sup>th</sup> Street canal basin in memory of World War II naval hero, Admiral Raymond A. Spruance. Today's date marks the 60-year anniversary of U.S. Naval forces, under the command of Spruance, defeating Japan at the Battle of Midway.

The design of a plaque, officially naming the 10<sup>th</sup> street basin the "Admiral Raymond Spruance Memorial Basin," was unveiled during the ceremony along the Downtown Canal Walk. Once completed, the plaque will be placed on the northwest side of the basin overlooking the water.

"Indianapolis has long been dedicated to honoring the men and women of our military who serve this nation with courage and dignity," Mayor Peterson said. "Today, 60 years after he commanded U.S. forces to victory in the Pacific, we have memorialized a local hero, Admiral Spruance, who has gone down in history as one of our country's finest wartime leaders."

Mayor Peterson continued by acknowledging Dr. Beurt SerVaas, City-County Council president, who sponsored the resolution re-naming the canal basin after Spruance. He also thanked local military organizations including the Navy Recruiting District in Indianapolis, the local Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Center and the Indianapolis Council of the Navy League for their involvement in the dedication.

Rear Admiral Philip Balisle, Director of Surface Warfare, provided the keynote address during the ceremony.

Born in Baltimore, Maryland, Spruance moved to Indianapolis during his high school years and graduated from Shortridge High School in 1903. He received two appointments to the Naval Academy, one coming from Indiana Senator (later Vice President) Charles Warren Fairbanks. Spruance went on to lead U.S. naval forces in critical battles against Japan during World War II.

Although vastly outnumbered by Japanese vessels and aircraft, Spruance commanded U.S. Navy Task Force 16 during a stunning and overwhelming victory at the Battle of Midway, an engagement that marked the turning point in the war in the Pacific.

While in command of the Navy's Fifth Fleet from 1943-45, Spruance chose the *USS Indianapolis* as his flagship.

After retirement, Spruance served as U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines. He died in 1969.